Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00644 011137Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
L-01 INR-05 SP-02 H-01 PRS-01 USIA-01 ACDA-10
PM-03 TRSE-00 /052 W
----------020630Z 003383 /17
R 011002Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1176
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0644

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH ALEKSEY KOSYGIN AND PRESIDENT KEKKONEN

REF: HELSINKI 0643

1. ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOVIET PRIME MINISTER'S MIVIST TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY, I HAD A 10 MINUTE VISIT SURROUNDED BY SOVIET OFFICIALDOM. PRIME MINISTER LEARNED THAT I WAS MEMBER OF THE TELEVISION INDUSTRY AND CARRIED ON A RATHER PROLONGED CONVERSATION, THE GIST OF WHICH WAS MY WISHING SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY VANCE,AS KOSYGIN WAS DEPARTING FOR THAT MEETING THE NEXT DAY. KOSYGIN SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON US. I POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE SAD PARTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IS SO MUCH TIME AND SPACE IS SPENT ON POINTING OUT DIFFERENCES, WHEN THE FACTS ARE THAT WE HAVE MUCH MORE ON WHICH WE AGREE THAN ON WHICH WE DIFFER. THIS LED TO A DIALOGUE ABOUT MEDIA, AS I ADMITTED THAT SOMEHOW WE USUALLY CONSIDER THE NEGATIVE NEWS MORE IMPORTANT THAN POSITIVE NEWS. THE PRIME MINISTER AGREED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HELSIN 00644 011137Z

2. CONGRESSMAN JOHN MURPHY OF NEW YORK WAS MY GUEST AT THE RECEPTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOMETIMES MEDIA IS TOUGHER ON AMERICAN POLITICIANS THAN ON WORLD STATESMEN. MR. KOSYGIN AND I FINALLY AGREED THAT MAYBE THERE WAS TOO MUCH MEDIA AS THE COMPETE WITH THEMSELVES TO ATTRACT READER AND LISTENERS.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

3. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT KOSYGIN AND PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAVE A SPECIAL RAPPORT. THE PRESIDENT OF FINLAND HAS POINTED OUT TO ME SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT KOSYGIN IS HIS FAVORITE. THE PRESIDENT SAID KOSYGIN HAS A PHENOMINAL MEMORY AND FREQUENTLY IS CALLED ON BY HIS COLLEAGUES FOR FACTS AND FIGURES.

4. MR. KOSYGIN FLEW BACK IN ORDER TO MEET THE VANCE TIMETABLE. WHILE IN FINLAND THE PRIME MINISTER SPENT SEVERAL NIGHTS ON HIS SPECIAL TRAIN WHICH BROUGHT HIM HERE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ANYONE'S MEMORY, HE AND PART OF HIS GROUP STAYED AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

5. WITHIN HOURS AFTER KOSYGIN DEPARTED HELSINKI, I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN TO HAVE HIM MEET CONGRESSMAN MURPHY. I COMMENTED THE PRESIDENT MUST BE TIRED FROM THE DIFFICULT SCHEDULE--HE AGREED. I ASKED IF HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE COMMUNIQUE AND HE SAID - VERY. AS EXPLAINED IN AN EARLIER CABLE, IT HAD BEEN A VERY LONG AND DIFFICULT SELF-ASSIGNMENT FOR KEKKONEN TO GET THE WORD NEUTRALITY SPELLED OUT IN THE COMMUNIQUE. I HELD OUT MY HAND FOR A CONGRATULATORY HANDSHAKE. KEKKONEN SEEMED SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT I WOULD BE SO ENTHUSIASTIC. I SAID, MR. PRESIDENT, THIS HAS GOT TO BE A PERSONAL SWEET VICTORY FOR YOU. HE NODDED VERY MUCH IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN IS ASSUMING A TREMENDOUS BURDEN ON THIS THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HAVING JUST BID GOODBYE TO THE PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA, KOSYGIN IS BARELY OUT OF THE WAY AND THE PRESIDENT OF TURKEY IS DUE HERE SHORTLY.
AUSTAD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, PLANNING METINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977HELSIN00644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770114-0150
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703103/aaaadmxw.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f35688ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 HELSINKI 643
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2945611
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR\'S CONVERSATION WITH ALEKSEY KOSYGIN AND PRESIDENT KEKKONEN
TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (KEKKONEN, URHO), (KOSYGIN, ALEKSEY),
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f35688ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009